Demand by Mess workers of Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy

2332. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the grievances of Mess workers of Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy;

(b) what are their grievances; whether it is related to pay scales and other working conditions as enjoyed by Government employees; and

(c) what remedial steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The mess workers of Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun, have represented for improvement of their pay scales and other working conditions as enjoyed by Government employees. The improvement of service conditions relate to regularisation of services as Government employees, fixation of working hours, provision of medical benefits, payment of overtime allowance, providing employment to dependents of employees dying in harness and issue of identity cards.

(c) The pay scales of the mess workers have been revised to make them at par with the mess workers at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie. For this, a subsidy of Rs. 70 per month per probationer has been sanctioned which will go towards meeting the expenditure on amount of improved pay scales, CPF, medical facilities, gratuity etc.

The mess of the Academy is run by the Indian Forest Service probationers and is not a Government department. Hence, the mess workers cannot be treated as Government employees and their services cannot be regularised.

Extension of concessional excise duty to indigenous drug manufacturers

2333. SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received by the Central Board of Excise and Customs from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry during June, 1988 seeking extension of concessional excise duty of 25 per cent ad valorem to the indigenous manufacturers of finished products containing Hormones and Drugs listed in Customs Notification No. 27/88 (Customs) dated 1st March, 1988; and

(b) what action is proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) A representation has been received from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry seeking reduction of customs duty on raw materials for manufacture of hormones and drugs listed in Notification No. 27/88-Customs dated the 1st March, 1988. The representation is being examined.

Increasing the production and sale of Janata Cloth

2334. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been increasing demand for Janata cloth in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the production as well as sale of Janata cloth has declined; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to increase the production and distribution of Janata cloth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.